



**Testimony in Support of HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses**

Dear Chairs Haskell and Elliot, Vice Chairs Turco and Flexer, Ranking Members Haines and Witkos, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

My name is Sydney Zoehrer. I am a resident of New Haven and a student at Yale University. I would like to express my strong support for HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses.

The updated frequency of the campus climate survey requirement to conduct the survey every two years — rather than every four — would positively impact university policies surrounding sexual misconduct. Four years is the full cycle of a college student's enrollment. By only soliciting feedback once in their college career, universities inhibit relevant changes in campus climate from coming to fruition in a timely manner. Gaining more frequent feedback can help shape university policies while they are still relevant to those students who are enrolled. It is imperative that CT universities change resources and protections such that they are tailored toward students as times and needs of those students change.

Moreover, the HB 6374 amnesty policy requirement for drugs and alcohol would encourage survivors of sexual assault to come forward and report without fear of retribution for drug or alcohol use. Drugs and alcohol can escalate situations that result in sexual assault and violence, making these cases more common when in a party scenario; eliminating fear of punishment by university officials or other law enforcement entities is absolutely essential to reduce victim-blaming. Creating a safe climate on campus cannot happen when students fear coming forward about incidents involving sexual violence — this bill would make it so survivors know the university backs their decision to come forward regardless of the circumstances surrounding the assault.

I strongly support HB 6374, An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses, and urge you to favorably vote the bill out of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

Sincerely,

Sydney Zoehrer  
New Haven, CT